CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of Claim 3, wherein the first switch automatically disables the server-side port substantially in real time.

3. (Previously Presented) An information handling system with automatic fail-over capabilities for network communications, the information handling system comprising:

a first switch with a server-side port and a switch-side port, the server-side port in communication with a server;

a second switch in communication with the server;

a fail-over circuit in the first switch in communication with the server-side port;

a status circuit in the first switch in communication with the fail-over circuit; and

a server with a team of network interface devices (NIDs) in communication with the first and second switches;

wherein the status circuit communicates link status of the switch-side port to the fail-over circuit;

wherein the fail-over circuit automatically disables the server-side port, in response to receiving a link status of down from the status circuit;

wherein the second switch automatically takes over for the first switch, in response to disablement of the server-side port of the first switch, such that the first switch automatically fails over to the second switch in response to the link status of down on the switch-side port of the first switch; and

wherein the server automatically utilizes the second switch in lieu of the first switch, in response to disablement of the server-side port of the first switch.

4. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of Claim 3, further comprising:

multiple server-side ports in the first and second switches.

multiple servers, each containing a team of network interface devices (NIDs) in communication with the first and second switches, wherein each team of NIDS automatically utilizes the second switch in lieu of the first switch, in response to disablement of the server-side ports of the first switch.

5. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of Claim 3, further comprising:

a switch-side port in the first switch;

a switch-side port in the second switch; and

an external switch in communication with the switch-side ports in the first and second switches via respective first and second uplinks.

6. (Original) The information handling system of Claim 5, wherein the fail-over circuit automatically disables the server-side port, in response to failure of the first uplink.

7. (Previously Presented) A network switch with automatic fail-over capabilities for network communications, the network switch comprising:

a switch-side port;

a server-side port;

a fail-over circuit in communication with the server-side port; and

a status circuit in communication with the fail-over circuit;

wherein the status circuit communicates link status of the switch-side port to the fail-over circuit; and

wherein the fail-over circuit automatically disables the server-side port in substantially real-time, in response to receiving a link status of down for the switch-side port from the status circuit.

8. (Original) The network switch of Claim 7 further comprising:

a selection circuit in communication with the fail-over circuit, wherein the selection circuit, when activated, prevents the fail-over circuit from disabling the server-side port in response to receiving a link status of down for the switch-side port.

9. (Original) The network switch of Claim 7, wherein:

the fail-over circuit automatically enables the server-side port, in response to receiving a link status of up for the switch-side port from the status circuit.

10. (Original) The network switch of Claim 7, further comprising multiple server-side ports.

11. (Original) The network switch of Claim 10, further comprising multiple fail-over circuits that automatically disable the multiple server-side ports in response to receiving a link status of down for the switch-side port.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method of providing automatic fail-over between switches in a network, the method comprising:

monitoring link status of a switch-side port of a switch;

in response to detecting a link status of down on the switch-side port, automatically disabling the server-side port in substantially real-time.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the operation of automatically disabling the server-side port comprises:

automatically triggering a fail-over circuit in the switch to disable the server-side port.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

after automatically disabling the server-side port, continuing to monitor the link status of the switch-side port of the switch;

in response to detecting a link status of up on the switch-side port of the switch, automatically restoring the server-side port of the switch.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the switch comprises a first switch in the network, the method further comprising:

monitoring link status of the server-side port of the first switch; and

in response to detecting the link status of down on the server-side port of the first switch, automatically failing over from the first switch to the second switch.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

after automatically disabling the server-side port of the first switch, continuing to monitor the link status of the switch-side port of the first switch;

in response to detecting the link status of up on the switch-side port of the first switch, automatically restoring the server-side port of the first switch.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

in response to detecting the link status of up on the server-side port of the first switch, automatically resuming communication with the first switch.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising automatically disabling a server-side port of the switch during a boot process of the switch.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising automatically disabling a server-side port of the switch in response to failure of the switch.